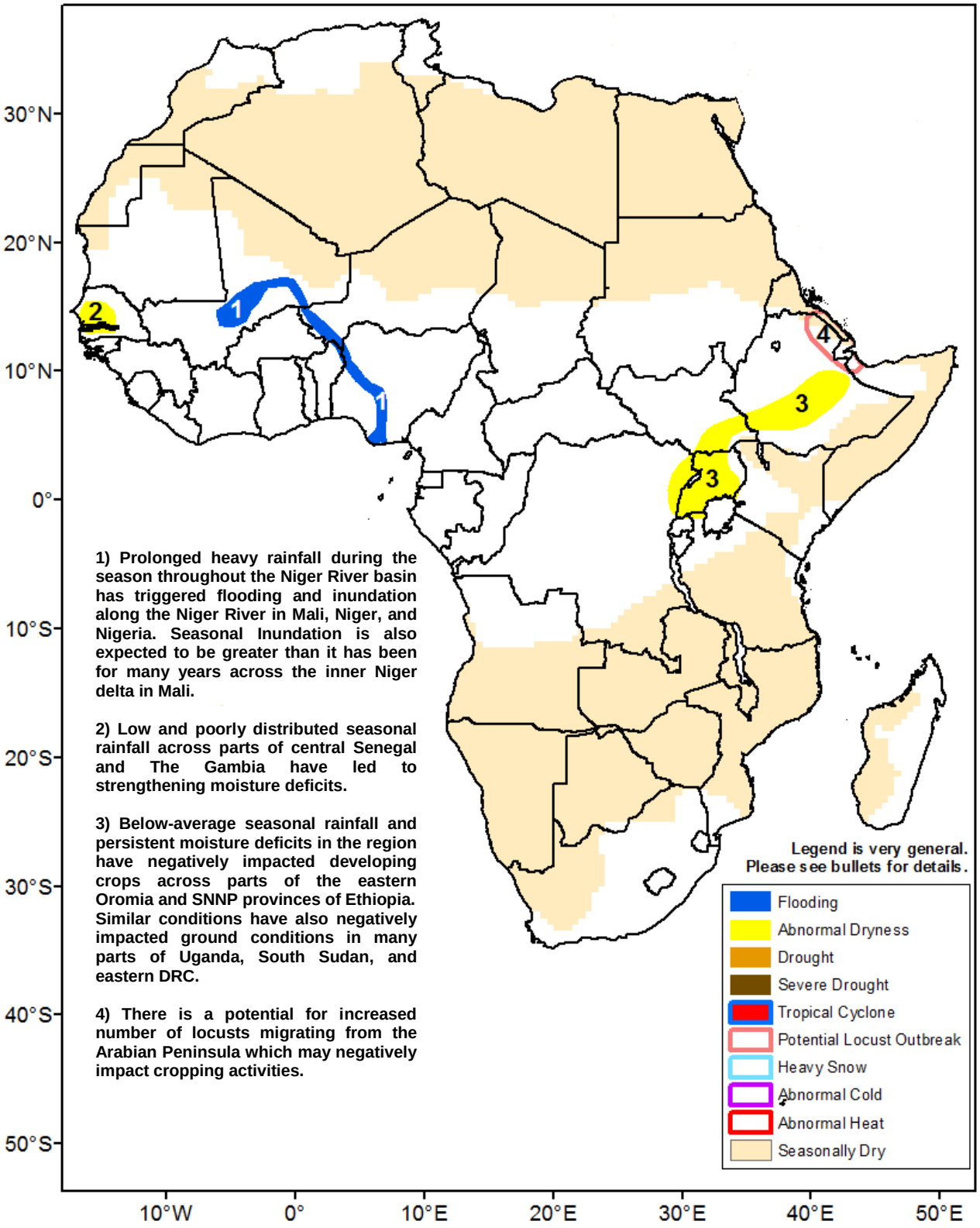
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
September 29 – October 5, 2016

- **Moisture deficits appear to slowly be decreasing in Uganda.**
- **Heavy seasonal rains are leading to elevated river levels along the Niger River in Mali, Niger, and Nigeria.**



1) Prolonged heavy rainfall during the season throughout the Niger River basin has triggered flooding and inundation along the Niger River in Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. Seasonal Inundation is also expected to be greater than it has been for many years across the inner Niger delta in Mali.

2) Low and poorly distributed seasonal rainfall across parts of central Senegal and The Gambia have led to strengthening moisture deficits.

3) Below-average seasonal rainfall and persistent moisture deficits in the region have negatively impacted developing crops across parts of the eastern Oromia and SNNP provinces of Ethiopia. Similar conditions have also negatively impacted ground conditions in many parts of Uganda, South Sudan, and eastern DRC.

4) There is a potential for increased number of locusts migrating from the Arabian Peninsula which may negatively impact cropping activities.

Average to above-average rains prevailed across West Africa even as the ITF continues its seasonal southward retreat.

Seasonable moderate to heavy rain was observed across most of the region this past week according to satellite rainfall estimates. The core of greater-than-average precipitation spread across the southern West African nations. Accumulations greater than 100mm were received in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria (**Figure 1**). Northern parts of the region, including Mauritania and Niger have begun to dry out. Moderate rains spread into southern portions of Cote D'Ivoire and Benin.

Most of the West Africa region shows positive rainfall anomalies over the previous 30-day period. Deficits remain only in central Senegal, the Gambia, scattered parts of Liberia and central Nigeria. Moisture deficits have been persistent for the longest in central Senegal and the Gambia, but rains have still been occurring with relative frequency. As a result, cropping activities have not appeared to be greatly affected. Widely persistent heavy and above-average rainfall since late July in the region continues to cause flooding issues along the Niger River in Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. Vegetation Indices indicate normal to better-than-normal vegetation conditions across the entire region (**Figure 2**). Trends indicate that conditions continue to get greener and lusher. This is true in Senegal where formally poor index values associated with the abnormal dryness are showing rapid improvement.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest that the monsoon circulation will continue to shift further south. Enhanced precipitation is forecasted for many of the western Gulf of Guinea countries.

Some signs of improving moisture deficits are visible in Uganda.

Moderate to heavy rains were spread throughout most of the climatologically favored areas during the past week. The largest totals, greater than 100mm, were primarily clustered in western Ethiopia and neighboring portions of Sudan and South Sudan (**Figure 3**). Lighter and slightly below-normal rainfall was observed in parts of west-central Ethiopia. Despite the African ITF's recent location south of its average position, much of Sudan, portions of Eritrea and northwestern Ethiopia still exhibit significant rainfall surpluses over the last 30 days. A second week of near to above-average across Uganda has begun to relieve moisture deficits there. Suppressed and erratic rainfall since August has persisted for portions of central Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, where negative anomalies remain little changed. Comparison with remotely sensed vegetation health indices still corroborates a shortage of available ground moisture, most notably in the central Oromia region of Ethiopia and in southern Uganda.

For the upcoming outlook period, a widespread seasonable distribution of precipitation is expected across the region, and enhanced rainfall is forecasted for western Ethiopia. A beneficial enhancement of rains is possible for Uganda.

Satellite-Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: September 21 – September 27, 2016

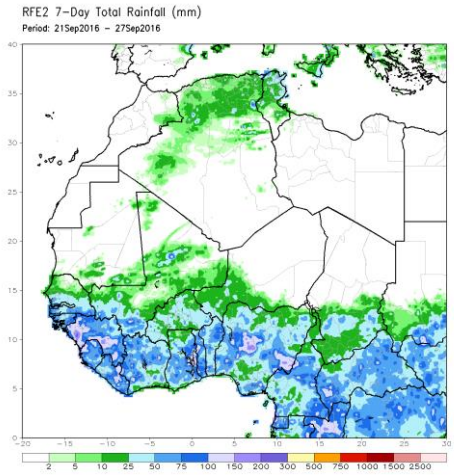


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Vegetation Health index (VHI)
Valid: September 16 – September 22, 2016

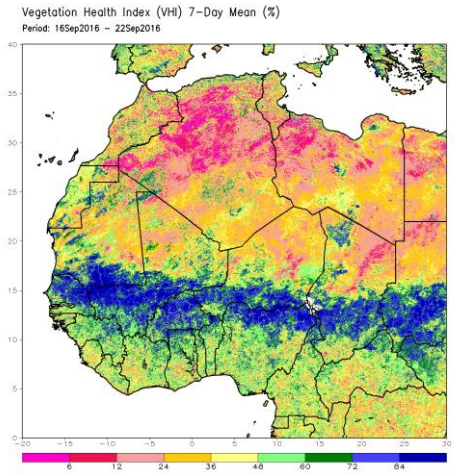


Figure 2: NOAA/NESDIS

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly
Valid: September 21 – September 27, 2016

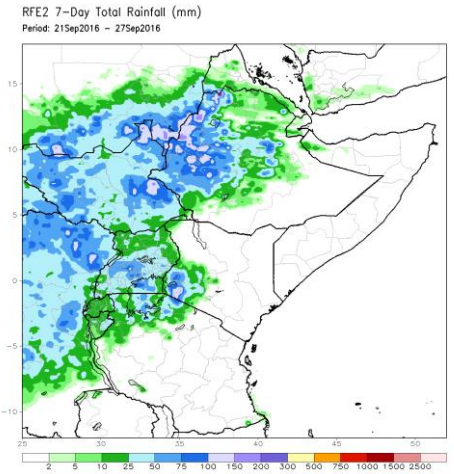


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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